CMs Conference for More Powers to States

2535. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convene a' separate conference of the Chief Ministers to study the issue of autonomy and devolution of powers to all the States on the basis of the Sarkaria Commission Report, in the near future; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission are already under consideration by the inter-State Council. Out of 247 recommendations of the Sarkaria Commisasion, the Council has taken decision on 171 recommendations. The remaining recommendations are to be placed before the Inter-State Council in its next meeting(s).

The Chief Ministers of all States and Administrators of the Union Territories are the members of the Inter-State Council. As such, there is no proposal to convene a separate conference of the Chief Ministers to discuss the issue of autonomy and devolution of powers to the States on the basis of the Sarkaria Commission Report.

Feasible Economic Strategy for North-East

2536. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether North-East M.Ps have decided to set up a Committee to formulate a feasible economic strategy for the area; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to develop the area and accede to their demands to counter the insurgency in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The Government have

received no information regarding setting up of a Committee by North East M.P.s to formulate a feasible economic strategy for the area,

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Foreign Funds for NGOs

2537. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received by the NGOs in the country from foreign countries during the last three years, NGO-wise and year-wise; and

(b) whether Government have any mechanism to know the utilisation of such funds received from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) These details are contained in the Annual Report on Receipt of foreign contribution by voluntary associations brought out by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Copies of the Annual Report upto the year 1997-98 have been placed in the Parliament Library. The report for the year 1998-99 is under compilation. The compilation of the report for 1999-2000 will commence after the report for 1998-99 is finalised.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, associations which are covered under the Act are required to furnish intimation in regard to receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution by them, on yearly basis, duly certified by a chartered Accountant to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The monitoring of foreign contribution is done through the returns submitted by such associations.